

Application Serial No. 09/806,573
Amendment dated February 27, 2004
Reply to Final Office Action dated November 5, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 157-165, 168-179, 186, 194-198, 204, 205, 209, 210, 217, 230, 231, 233-236, 240-251, 258, 266-270, 276, 277, 281, 282, 291-294, 296, and 297 are pending. Claims 1-156, 166, 167, 180-185, 187-193, 199-203, 206-208, 211-216, 218-229, 232, 237-239, 252-257, 259-265, 271-275, 278-280, 283-290, and 295 have been canceled. Claims 175, 176, 247, and 248 had earlier been withdrawn. Claims 291-294 have been allowed.

Responsive to the Examiner's rejection of prior claims 147-156, 166, 167, 180-185, 187-193, 200, 202, 203, 206-208, 214-216, 218-229, 232, 237-239, 252-257, 259-265, 272, 274, 275, 278-280, 285-288, 290, and 295, Applicants have canceled such claims.

With respect to the Examiner's objection to claims 157-165, 168-174, 177-179, 186, 194-198, 204, 205, 209, 210, 217, 230, 231, 233-236, 240-246, 249-251, 258, 266-270, 276, 277, 281, 282, 296, and 297, Applicants thank the Examiner for his indication that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Responsive thereto, Applicants have rewritten claims 157, 186, 204, 217, 230, 249, 250, 258, 276, 296, and 297 in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance thereof.

Dependent claims 158-165, 168-174, 177-179, 194-198, and 209 each depend either directly or indirectly from rewritten independent claim 157, thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 158-165, 168-174, 177-179, 194-198, and 209 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance thereof.

Dependent claim 210 directly depends from rewritten independent claim 186, thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 210 is in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance thereof.

Dependent claim 205 directly depends from rewritten independent claim 204, thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 205 is in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance thereof.

Dependent Claims 231, 233-236, 240-246, 266-270, 281, and 282 each depend either directly or indirectly from rewritten independent claim 230, thus, Applicants respectfully submit

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that claims 231, 233-236, 240-246, 266-270, 281, and 282 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance thereof.

Dependent Claim 251 directly depends from rewritten independent claim 250, thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 251 is in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance thereof.

Dependent Claim 277 directly depends from rewritten independent claim 276, thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 277 is in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance thereof.

Previously withdrawn claim 175 has been rewritten to include the limitations of canceled claim 166, which had depended from claim 162, which in turn depends from new independent claim 157. As new independent claim 157 is generic and is allowable, it is respectfully submitted that previously withdrawn claim 175, as well as previously withdrawn claim 176 which depends therefrom, are also allowable and should be considered in the present patent application.

Previously withdrawn claim 247 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim canceled claim 238, which had depended from claim 234, which in turn depends from new independent Claim 230. As new independent claim 230 is generic and is allowable, it is respectfully submitted that previously withdrawn claim 247, as well as previously withdrawn claim 248 which depends therefrom, are also allowable and should be considered in the present patent application.

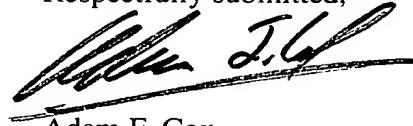
It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and reconsideration is requested. Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance thereof.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby petition therefore and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0385, Baker & Daniels.

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Should the Examiner have any further questions regarding any of the foregoing, he is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 424-8000.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATION OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: February 27, 2004

ADAM F. COX, REG. NO. 46,644

Name of Registered Representative



Signature

February 27, 2004

Date